

Archie
ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 277



PEPPERS
BRIANT
Hunzaker

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



CHARACTER
= SELECT =



SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!



SALLY ACORN
LEADER OF THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



BUNNIE
"RABBIT"
D'COLETTE
CYBORG FREEDOM FIGHTER



LUPE
THE WOLF
PLAINS WARRIOR

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...

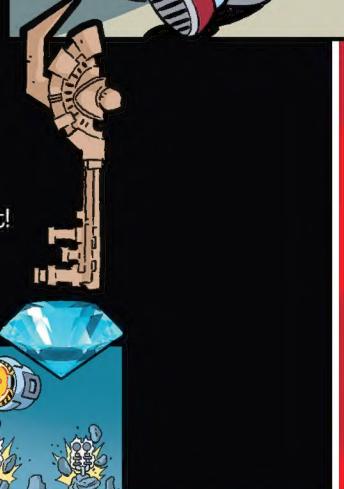
KEY TO THE KEYS!

Sonic and his heroic friends—the Freedom Fighters—are out fix the Shattered World! To do that, they need access to the seven Gaia Temples and the power of the Chaos Emeralds!

Sonic has learned of the seven Gaia Keys—special totems that will allow him to open the Gaia Gate and access all of the temples from one place! The Gaia Sage, Gregorios, has given him the names and locations of the keys' guardians! With the tracking down of the guardians underway, one other crucial element to saving the world remains: the last Chaos Emerald!

The Freedom Fighters were nearly killed in one of Dr. Eggman's traps, in which he used the last Emerald as bait!

Since then the gem's location has remained a mystery...



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705080), No. 277, December, 2015. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO. Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO. Mike Pellerito, President. Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. Subscription rate: \$47.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, the SEGA logo, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE and SONIC BOOM™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Holdings Co., Ltd. or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 250 East Olive Avenue, Ste 200, Burbank, CA 91502 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Printed in USA.

THUNDER PLAINS
ZONE...

HOW
YOU DOING
BACK THERE,
LUPE?

CHIP
ANCIENT
SPIRIT

E-118 TAU
SUPER BADNIK

DO NOT
SLOW DOWN!
JUST GET US
TO THE
PLAINS!

SONIC
HEROIC
HEDGEHOG

LUPE
WARRIOR
WOLF

POW!

THUNDER, RAIN and LIGHTNING

WRITER: IAN FLYNN • PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN • COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN • COVER BY
JAMAL PEPPERS, RICK BRYANT, AND BEN HUNZEKER
BATTLE VARIANT COVER BY TYSON HESSE

SO...
FAST...!

YOU
COULD'VE
STAYED ON
THE SKY
PATROL.

AND...
MISS...
ALL THE...
EXCITE-
MENT?!

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY
EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELIK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO

PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO STACY ARNOLD-
STRIDER, SANDRA JO, AND MAI KIYOTAKI
AT SEGA LICENSING

SALLY
TACTICIAN

THAT
WASN'T
THE PLAN,
SONIC!

HEADS UP,
SALLY-GIRL!

BUNNIE
CYBORG

BESIDES--
WHEN HAS
SONIC **EVAH**
STUCK TO
A PLAN?

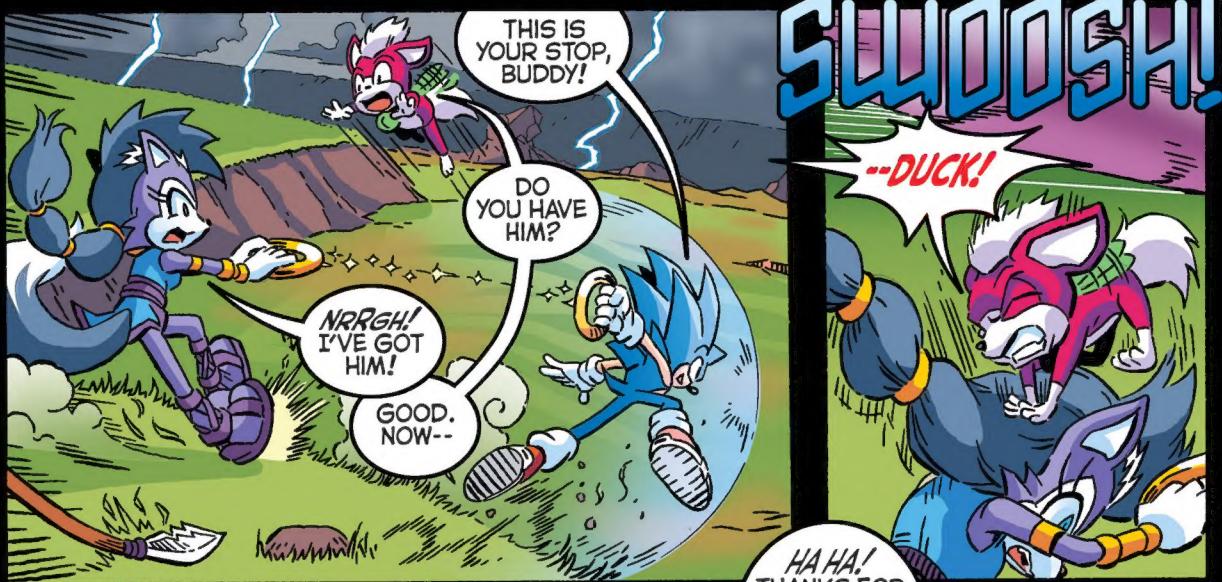
HE
HAS!
LIKE
WHEN WE...
UM...

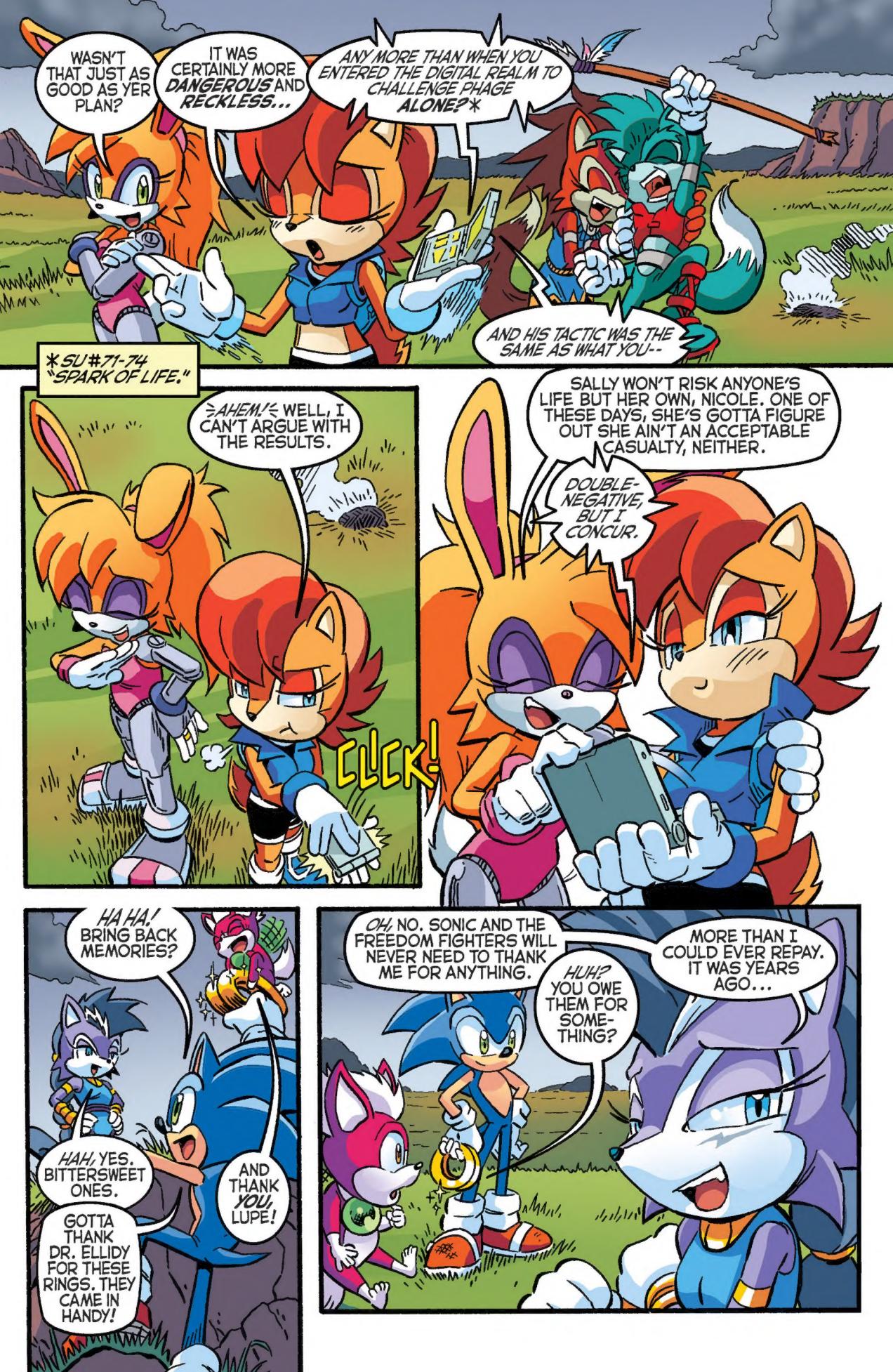
PUNT!

AND HE'S
ALWAYS COME
THROUGH, SO
QUIT YER
WORRYIN'!

...ALL
RIGHT.
ALMOST
NEVER.

PYEW!





"...WHEN I THOUGHT
ALL WAS LOST..."

ARE
YOU HURT?
CAN YOU STAND?
WE NEED TO
GET YOU SOME-
PLACE SAFE!

N-NO PLACE IS SAFE!
E-EVERYTHING IS RUINED!
AND F-FATHER--! M-M-MY
FATHER...!

I SEE
RO-BUTT-NIK!
I'LL PUT A STOP
TO THIS!

SONIC--
WAIT!
I NEED YOU...

...TO HELP
WITH THE
BADNIKS.

Y-YOU ARE
NOT NEEDING
HIM, MA
PRINCESS!
I W-WILL BE
PROTECTING
YOU!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO
WORK. THE BADNIKS WILL
OVERWHELM US. I NEED
YOU AND THE
VILLAGERS
TO--

N-NO...
I CAN'T...

LISTEN TO ME. I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE. I LOST MY FATHER. MY HOME. MY KINGDOM. I ONLY GOT THEM BACK WHEN I STOOD UP AND FOUGHT FOR THEM.

I WON'T EVER GET MY FATHER BACK!

BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR VILLAGE. YOUR COMMUNITY.

NO, AND I'M SORRY HE'S GONE.

AND IF YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR THEM NOW, YOU MAY NEVER GET THE CHANCE LATER.

YOW! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PLACE?!

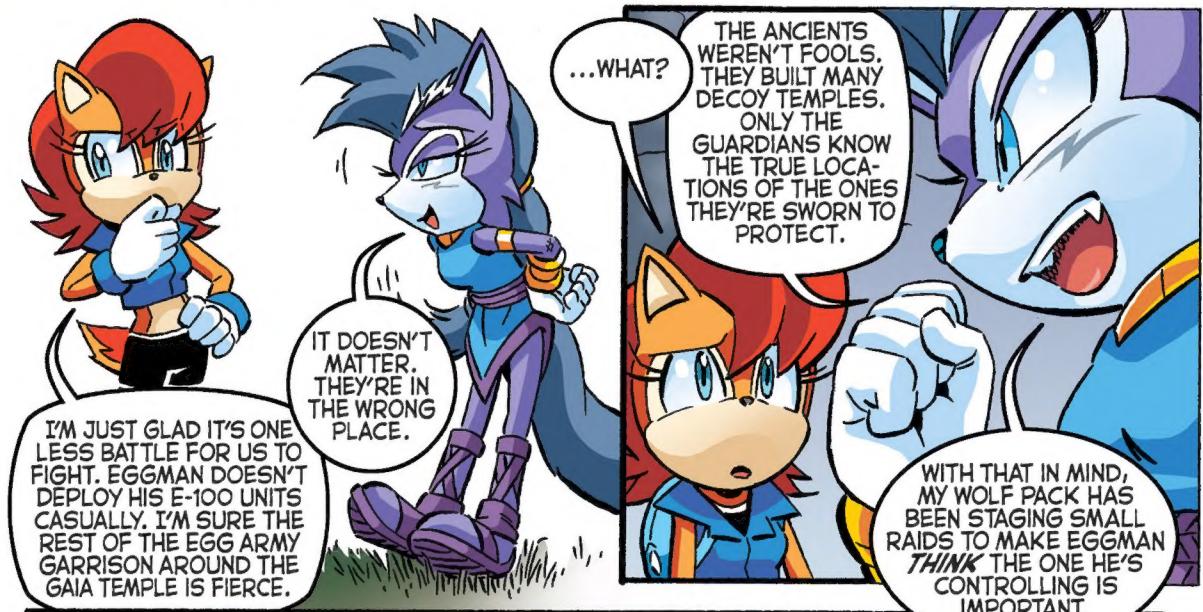
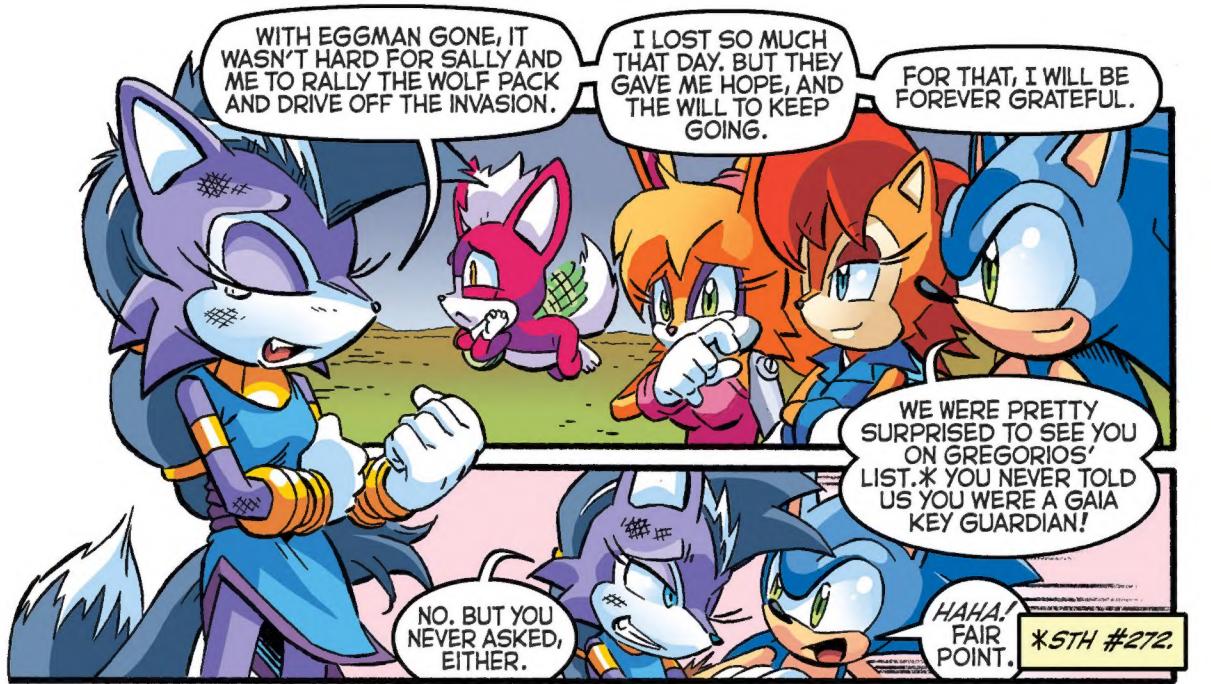


KABOOM!

WAITAMINUTE...

KHA:
RAK!





SMART THINKING!
AND THAT EXPLAINS
THE E-100 UNIT!

MAYBE, IT WAS
STRAYING FAR FROM THE
FALSE TEMPLE, THOUGH.

AS IF
IT WERE
SEARCHING
FOR SOMETHING...

HEY!
SONIC!

THIS LOOKS
LIKE AN EGG-
MAN MACHINE!
IS THIS
IMPORTANT?

OH MY GOSH!
THIS IS THE DECOY PRISON
EGG THAT HAD THE CHAOS
EMERALD!* IT MUST'VE GONE
OFF COURSE AND CRASHED
HERE! BUT... I DON'T SEE THE
CHAOS EMERALD...

MAYBE ONE OF
THE LOCALS
FOUND IT! IF SO,
IT MIGHT STILL
BE IN THE AREA!

NICE
FIND,
CHIP!

*STH #266-267.

I'LL SEND THE
WOLF PACK TO ASK
AROUND. SOMEONE
MUST HAVE SEEN IT!

THANK YOU, LUPE!
BUNNIE AND I WILL
SEARCH, TOO!

YAHOO!
IN YO'
FACE,
EGGMAN!

YOU WANT ME TO
COME ALONG IN CASE
THINGS GET DICEY?

NOT THIS TIME, YOU
AND CHIP GO TO THE
KEYS' HIDING PLACE
WITH LUPE. WE'LL
LINK UP LATER.

WE'LL BE
BACK FASTER'N
YOU CAN SAY
"FINDERS-
KEEPERS!"



STONE STORM-
LANDS ZONE...

GUESS
THAT'S THE
EGG ARMY
BASE.

HIDDEN COSTS

PART ONE

WRITER: ALEAH BAKER
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

IF THEY HAVE THE
CHAOS EMERALD IN THE
TEMPLE, I DON'T KNOW
IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO
RETRIEVE IT BY OUR-
SELVES...



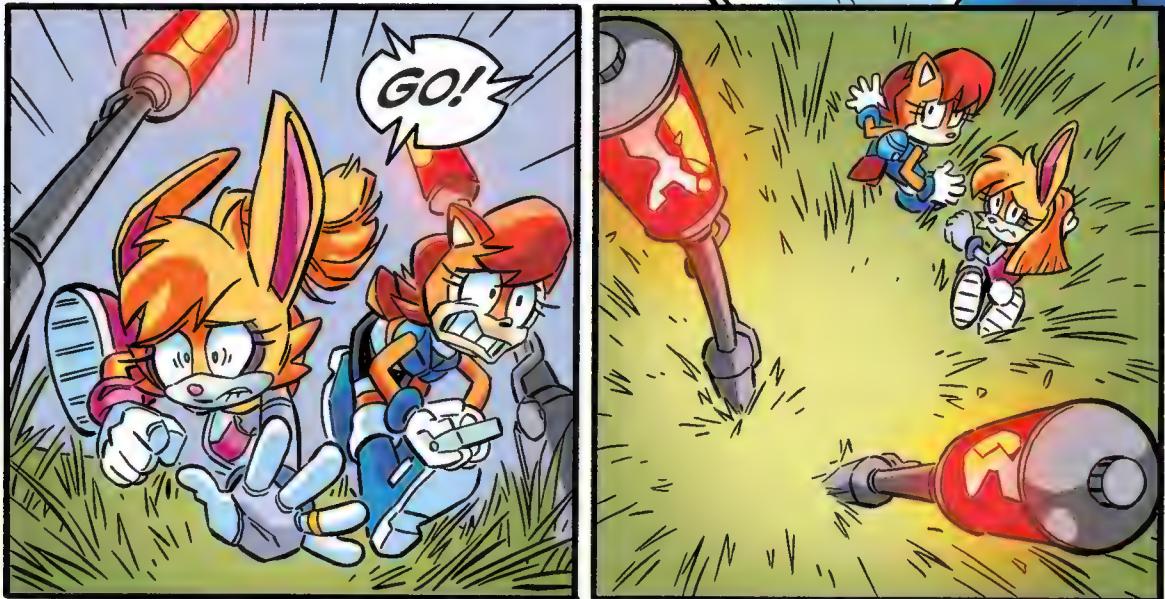
I DON'T THINK
THAT E-100 UNIT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
DEPLOYED HAD THEY
ALREADY FOUND THE
EMERALD.

RIGHT...SO FOR
THE TIME BEING,
LET'S JUST SEARCH
THE GROUNDS AND
AVOID THE TEMPLE
ITSELF.



BESIDES,
ACCORDING
TO LUPE, THIS ISN'T
THE ACTUAL GAIA
TEMPLE. IF THE EGG
ARMY WANTS IT, THEY
CAN HAVE IT. KEEPS
THEM BUSY WHILE
WE DEAL WITH THE
REAL THING.





WE'LL COVER GROUND FASTER IF WE SPLIT UP.
BUNNIE, YOU HEAD WEST.
KEEP IT STEALTHY--NO
UNNECESSARY RADIO CONTACT.

GOTCHA.
GOOD LUCK!



...LOOKS LIKE TAU WANDERED INTO THE THUNDER PLAINS ZONE AND GOT FRIED. STILL NOT SURE WHY IT WENT OFF COURSE LIKE THAT.

SHALL I--

...HUH.

CASSIA
CO-EGG BOSS

EGG BOSS
CLOVE
REGIONAL EGG ARMY LEADER

LAST TIME, YOU SAID, "IT'S PROBABLY JUST A FLICKY," AND IT WAS ACTUALLY SOME LOST IDIOT.

WELL, YEAH... BUT HE DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING. I MEAN, IT WAS JUST FOR A SECOND... SO...

SOMETHING WRONG?

I... UH... THE SECURITY FIELD BLIPPED OUT. LIKE, IT TURNED OFF FOR A SECOND, BUT IT'S BACK ON NOW...

...IT'S PROBABLY JUST A GLITCH...

...SHOULD I SOUND THE ALARM...? LADY CLOVE?

NO NEED. I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.



OOH,
I'LL COME WITH
YOU! LET'S BUST
SOME HEADS!

NO, CASS.
I DON'T THINK
HEAD-BUSTING IS
NECESSARY...
YET.

AW,
COME ON!
I CAN WATCH
YOUR BACK!
SIS...

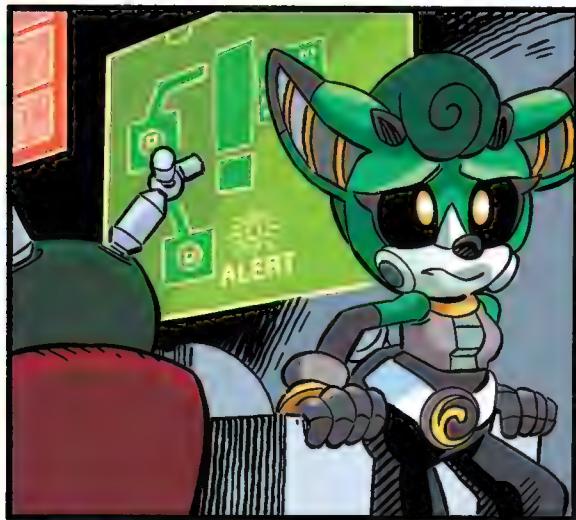
...I CAN
KEEP UP. YOU
KNOW I
CAN.

I DO. I JUST HAVE
AN IDEA, AND IT'LL WORK
BETTER IF I GO ALONE.
TRUST ME.

YOU
KNOW I
DO.

PUT OUR SOLDIERS
ON STANDBY..THOUGH
I HOPE THEY WON'T BE
NEEDED. I'LL BE BACK
SHORTLY.

CASSIA,
DON'T FORGET
YOUR TREAT-
MENT.



ANYWAY, SINCE **SOMEONE** WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO THINGS, I'M GONNA GO CHECK OUT THAT WHATEVER-IT-IS.

ERM, LADY CASSIA, YOUR SISTER SAID--

THAT SHE WAS GOING ALONE, NOT THAT I COULDN'T LEAVE.

TRIPLE-S?...

WE COULD SEND A BADNIK INSTEAD--

PSH, AND LET IT WANDER OFF AND TRASH ITSELF LIKE TAU DID?

NO WAY.
BESIDES, I'M BORED.

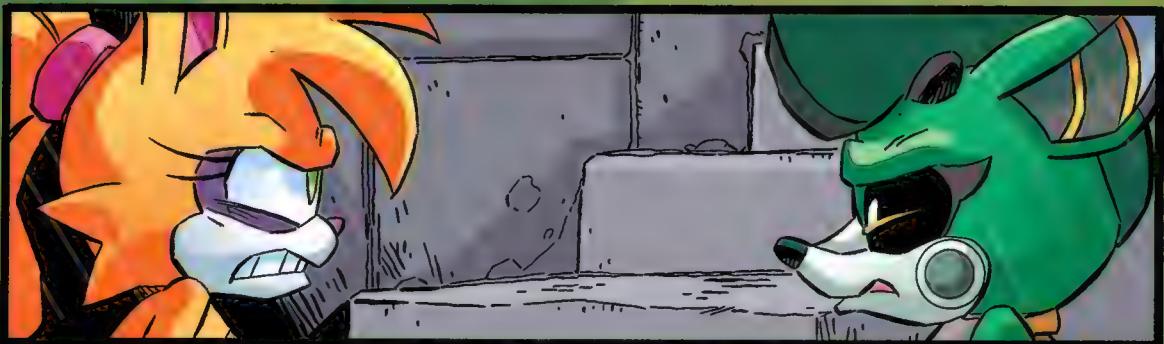
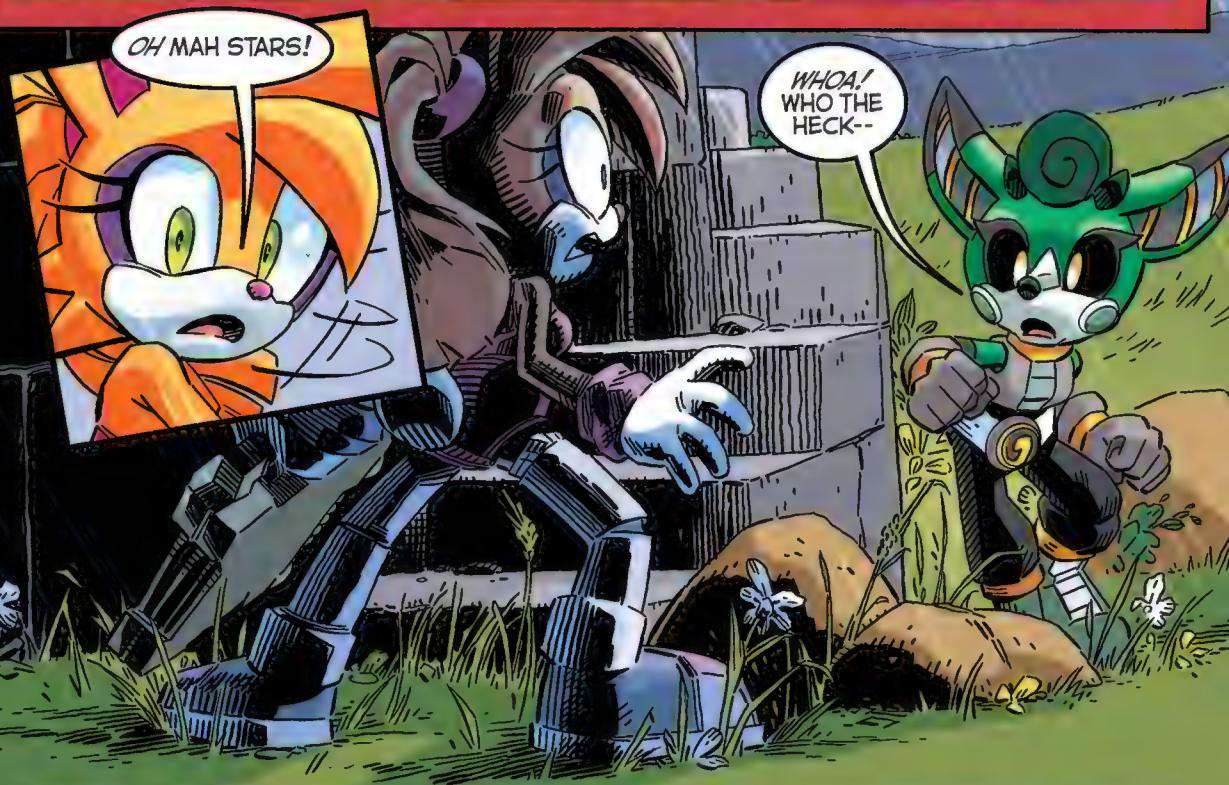
"IT'S NOT FAIR
THAT CLOVE GETS
TO HAVE ALL THE FUN."



ELSEWHERE IN
THE RUINS...

PLEASE
BE THE CHAOS
EMERALD...!

DID SOMEONE
BRING IT HERE,
THINKIN' IT WOULD
SAVE THE
WORLD...?







SO YOU'RE ONE OF
THOSE FREEDOM
FIGHTER TWERPS, HUH?
I'M NOT LOSING
ANOTHER EMERALD
TO YOU GUYS.*



*SEE STH #260-263.



*SEE STH #267.



...I AIN'T
LETTIN' IT GO
AGAIN!

NEXT TIME: BUNNIE VS. CASSIA! BUT WHAT IS LOVE AFTER...?

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that's "wolf-packed" with excitement!

LUPE
WARRIOR
WOLF

BELOW: The final version of Lupe's new design by editor, Vincent Lovallo.



ABOVE: Several tweaks used to determine how Lupe's hair will look.

I'd also like to give a shout-out to the awesome **Aleah Baker** who wrote "Hidden Costs". This 3-part story features the return of the pronghorn deer sisters **Clove** and **Cassia** who first debuted in *Sonic the Hedgehog* #263. Fittingly, both that story and this one were written by Aleah and pencilled by **Evan Stanley**! Check out Evan's original illustration for Clove and Cassia!

Well that's all the behind-the-scenes stuff for now. Catch ya next time for more super Sonic fun!

- Vincent "Vin" Lovallo
Editor

*Vin
2015*

Hey there, Sonic comic readers!

It's been a while since we've done a full fledged editorial column, so let's get right to it!

I hope you all enjoyed "Thunder, Rain and Lightning"! I was super stoked when Sonic comics mega-scribe **Ian Flynn** told me that **Lupe the Wolf** would make her return in this issue, with an updated look to boot!

Check out the reference images made by yours truly! Ian and I went through a few changes to her hair before getting her design down solid. I think Lupe looks pretty fierce, don't you? Many thanks to penciller **Adam Bryce Thomas**, who did a terrific job drawing both her and the wolf-pack!



ABOVE: Rough color models of Cassia and Clove, the sister pronghorns. Concepts by Aleah Baker and art by Evan Stanley.

SONIC GRAMS FAN ART



Johanna A. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Helen R. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Mackenzie F.P.
from Texas



Rocio V. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

OFF PANEL FLASHBANG BOOM CREASED OR LIGHTNING



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL

PENCILS: LAMAR WELLS

INKS: RICK BRYANT

COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



SEGA.COM - ARCHIECOMICS.COM

SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100
PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL:
Sonic@ArchieComics.com
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi! My name is Grayson! I've loved your comic since 2008! It's an awesome series! Sonic the Hedgehog is my #1 hero! He saves the world with speed, awesomeness and care! He's my kinda guy!

Hiya, Grayson! Sonic's a pretty cool dude, as far as dudes go, dude!

I think the comics have changed A LOT since 2008! Personally, I love the new world more! Sally finally does combat! Sonic is better than ever! Amy gets to go on missions and isn't always crazy!

We like to think the new universe strikes a good character balance! There's still much more to cover but we're getting there!

1. Does Sonic have the greatest speed in the new world?

Sonic's the fastest guy in any world! Superheroes, desert birds, mice in sombreros -- he's got 'em all beat!

2. Can Sally or any of the Freedom Fighters turn super?

With the power of all 7 Chaos Emeralds, Sonic, Shadow & Silver can go super. Blaze can use the power of the Sol Emeralds to turn into Burning Blaze. As for the rest of the cast, it's anyone's guess!

3. When are Silver, Blaze and Shadow

showing up again?

You can find Silver in the current pages of Sonic Universe! We hope you're digging "The Silver Age!" Shadow and Blaze haven't shown up yet, but they may turn up sooner than you think!

Thank y'all for the work you do! Stay "way past cool!"

Grayson B.
from Alabama

Thank you for being an awesome fan!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I've had doubts about emailing you because I didn't think anyone would listen, but I want to contact you about the many new changes in the Sonic comics.

We can't always answer everyone but we do read every letter and we certainly care about every fan, be they new fans or old fans!

1. I know Robotnik's name is Eggman and Japan has called him that since his creation, but I knew Sonic's archenemy as Robotnik ever since I saw the cartoons. Everything he does suits his 'Robotnik' name better. I can't take 'Eggman' seriously. It was better off as a name to mock him with, along with Ro'butt'nik and other funny names. Can you change his name back, please?

"Robotnik" as a name pops up every now and then even in the games (we

haven't forgotten it)! But he is usually referred to as Dr. Eggman. We want to stick with that, but use both names for funny insults issued by Sonic.

2. Robotnik's the only villain that Sonic has to deal with. Can't you use other villains?

Well don't forget, there's Nack and the Hooligans, Breezie & the S-6 Squad, Eclipse, Dr. Snively, all the new Egg Bosses and Naugus is back as of last issue... with a sister?!? Don't worry about newer villains. We've got that covered!

3. I'm a HUGE fan of Sonic and Sally being together so I'm bugged because Amy gets more attention than Sally and I don't like that. I want Sally to be involved with Sonic. Can you make them a couple again?

Sally's more concerned with leading her friends against the tyranny of Eggman than a love life, plus she's good friends with Amy and her dynamic with Sonic is still there even if it's not romantically linked.

Thank you for reading. I hope you can answer soon.

Ian M. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thank you for your feedback, Ian!

We'll see y'all next issue!



CHECK OUT MORE AWESOME TITLES FROM

The cover features Sonic the Hedgehog in a dynamic pose, looking determined. In the background, there are other characters like Shadow and Silver. The title "SONIC UNIVERSE" is at the top, and "ISSUE 80" is in the center. Below the main image, it says "'THE SILVER AGE'" and "SONIC UNIVERSE 79-82".

The cover shows the Red Man, a robotic character with a red and white suit, holding a glowing energy shield. The title "MEGA MAN" is at the top, and "ISSUE 54" is in the center. Below the main image, it says "'RED SHIFT'" and "MEGA MAN 54".

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 278



"FACE OF THE ENEMY"
Pt. 1
AND "HIDDEN COSTS Pt. 2"